



News Release

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Office of Inspector General
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Former NASA Contractor Employee Pleads Guilty

On January 11, 2000, Vernon R. Baake, a former employee of Lockheed Martin Space Operations, a NASA contractor at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, pled guilty to a one-count criminal information for accepting kickbacks, in violation of Title 41, United States Code, Section 53. The plea was entered in U.S. District Court, Orlando, FL. Sentencing is scheduled for April 19, 2000.

Baake received a \$10,000 kickback after he illegally provided information to a computer maintenance company which resulted in the award of a NASA subcontract. The funds were paid directly to a local Brevard County, FL marine dealer to pay for maintenance on Baake's boat.

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General and the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division. Assistant United States Attorney Cynthia Collazo of the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division, (407) 648-7500, is handling the prosecution of this matter.

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